

## **8100 PROCEDURE 201**

### **Preparedness Levels-CWCG**

(February 2010)

(See [California Wildfire Coordinating Group \(CWCG\) Preparedness Levels](#))

### **California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (CWCG) Plan Endorsement**

The Preparedness Plan is endorsed by the CWCG which represents the following agencies:

- United States Forest Service
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- California Emergency Management Agency / Cal EMA
- Contract Counties

### **Purpose**

Coordinate workforce and equipment needs for wildland fire activities and prescribed fire. Ensure fire protection responsibilities, commitments to prescribed fire and wildland fire use do not exceed State wildland fire capabilities, and are coordinated with State and National wildland fire activities. California has two preparedness level areas corresponding to Northern California and Southern California Geographical Areas. Each will reflect fire activity and fire weather conditions in the corresponding geographical areas. California's commitment to meet National activities will only extend to the Federal resources available. State, county, and local fire department resources are available on a "case by case" basis.

### **Preparedness Level Responsibilities**

Preparedness levels are monitored and managed by the Northern and Southern California Geographic MACS Groups (Nor Cal MACS/So Cal MACS) for Preparedness Levels 1, 2, and 3. The determination of these levels will represent a consensus of the Interagency Coordinators from the Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Preparedness Levels 4 and 5 will be declared by a consensus of the members of the CWCG / CALMAC (California Multi-Agency Coordination Group).

Northern California and Southern California GACC will contact the Chair of CWCG when it is determined that conditions above Preparedness Level 3 exist. The Chair of CWCG will contact the Members or representatives, who will develop a consensus and report the result to the GACCs. The CAL FIRE representative to CALMAC is the Deputy Director of Fire Protection, or designee.

The following information will be used to determine preparedness levels for Northern California GACC and Southern California GACC, or for the entire state:

1. Current California and National Fire Situation.
2. National Preparedness Levels.
3. Predicted Fire Potential.
4. Firefighting Resource Availability.

## **PREPAREDNESS LEVELS**

### **Preparedness level I**

Definition:

- Few or no class A, B, and C (Class A = 0.25 acres or less, Class B = 0.25-<10 acres, Class C = 10-<100 acres) wildland fires.
- Minimal or no commitment of Interagency resources to suppression activities.
- Current and short-range predictions for low to moderate fire danger.
- Local units implementing prescribed fire operations with sufficient contingency resources available.
- Agencies are at satisfactory draw down levels and requests for personnel and resources outside of the local area are not occurring

Responsibilities and Actions

ECC

1. All prescribed fires within Units are to be reported to the respective Region OCC. ([See Policy 8181-Live Fire Use Approval/Notification](#))
2. All Units will be staffed at their normal, budgeted initial attack level, and will determine appropriate actions. Normal reporting procedures are used.

### **Preparedness Level II**

Definition:

- Numerous class A, B, and C wildland fires.
- Local commitment of interagency resources for initial attack, fuels projects, and wildland fire use.
- Current and short-term weather predictions for moderate fire danger.
- Local units implementing prescribed fire operations with sufficient contingency resources available.
- Agencies' drawdown levels are at satisfactory levels and requests for personnel and resources outside of the local area are of minimal to low impact.

## **Responsibilities and Actions**

### **ECC**

1. Continue Preparedness Level I activities.

### **Any Unit/OCC Duty Chief**

1. Evaluate status of prescribed fires daily as they influence Department resource availability.
2. Monitor changing fire situation and report to next higher level as appropriate.

### **Preparedness Level III**

#### **Definition:**

- High potential for Class D (Class D fires are 100-299 acres) and larger fires to occur, with several active Class A, B and C fires.
- Mobilization of agency and interagency resources within the region occurring, but minimal mobilization between Coordination Centers.
- Forecasted fire danger adjective ratings are moving from medium to high or very high.
- Local units implementing prescribed fire operations starting to compete for interagency contingency resources.
- Agencies still above draw down levels for suppression resources, but beginning to have difficulty maintaining sufficient resources to meet initial attack responsibilities, project fire support, and wildfire use without prioritizing or using non-local support.
- Critical resource needs are starting to be identified.

## **Responsibilities and Actions**

### **Unit ECC / Duty Chief**

1. Continue previous preparedness activities.
2. Evaluate the risk factors with continued use of prescribed fire. Prohibit prescribed burns if situation warrants such action.
3. Agencies can limit the use of their resources as contingency resources, or make them unavailable for use on prescribed fires.
4. Evaluate the need for staffing patterns and Pre-positioning resources, inform and/or coordinate as needed.
5. Intensify coordination efforts with all fire protection agencies.

## **Region OCC / Region Duty Chief**

1. Monitor prescribed fire status and impact on GACC and Department resources; confer with appropriate agency representatives.
2. Evaluate the risk factors with continued use of prescribed fire. Prohibit prescribed burns if situation warrants such action.
3. Ensure key fire-qualified personnel are available for fire assignment.
4. Evaluate the need for staffing patterns and pre-positioning resources, inform and/or coordinate as needed.
5. Intensify coordination efforts with all fire protection agencies.

## **Sacramento CC / Department Duty Chief**

1. Establish contact with Cal EMA regarding military aviation assets and apprise them of current preparedness level.

## **Preparedness Level IV**

### **Definition:**

- Continuing initial attack activity and Class D or larger fires are common in one or both GACCs.
- Resource ordering and mobilization of personnel is occurring between GACCs.
- Current and short-term weather forecasts are for high to very high fire danger.
- The long-range forecast for the next week indicates continued high fire danger.
- Statewide competition exists for interagency resources.
- Prohibition for prescribed burns.

## **Responsibilities and Actions**

### **Unit**

1. Continue Preparedness Level III activities.
2. Suspend all prescribed burns.

### **Unit and Region Duty Chief**

1. Continue Preparedness Level III activities.
2. Ensure that the suspension of prescribed burns is in place.
3. Restrict current prescribed fires to a safe point where all resources can be released for wildfire activities.

4. Units and regions provide fire priorities and other pertinent information to appropriate organizational level.

### **Sacramento Duty Chief**

1. Consider Alert/Activation of California National Guard (CNA) Military Helicopter Firefighting Program.
2. Consider Activation of Military Aviation Operations Coordinator to proactively work with local military aviation assets.
3. Consult with Department representative of CWCG to activate coordination centers of the appropriate Multi- Agency Coordination Group (MAC) level. When the CALMAC group is activated, coordinate efforts with the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) if it is activated.

### **CALMAC Department Representative**

1. Consider pre-positioning resources within the State.
2. Provide CALMAC with Department fire priorities and other pertinent information for National Multi-Agency Coordination (NMAC).
3. Alert Units through normal channels of the possibility of going to Preparedness Level V.

### **Preparedness Level V**

#### **Definition:**

- CALMAC is fully activated. Agencies are below drawdown levels. Class D and larger fires are common in one or both GACCs.
- Either or both GACCs cannot fill many outstanding resource requests and are sending outstanding orders to NICC.
- Use of local government resources is common.
- Reassignment of personnel and resources between incidents is common.
- Current and short-range weather forecasts predict very high to extreme fire danger.
- Long range forecasts for the next week for either GACC indicate continued very high to extreme fire danger.
- Activation of National Guard or military personnel and resources is being considered or has occurred.
- Orders for California resources are causing the state (CAL FIRE) to drop below agency minimum drawn down levels.
- State and Local government personnel are being used to fill out-of-state resource orders.
- Actual and long range fire danger predictions are very high or extreme.
- Personnel and resources are at or below agency minimum draw down levels.
- Prohibition in place for prescribed burns.

## **Responsibilities and Actions**

### **Any CC**

1. Continue previous preparedness activities.

### **Region OCC/ Sacramento CC**

1. Units report twice daily on resource status, at times specified by CALMAC group. Document and distribute on Form MACS 405.

### **CALMAC Department Representative**

1. Assess and report statewide/national situation for determination of need for resources through coordination groups.

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